

THE HON. G. LASCELLES gave an interesting account of the efforts made by the Crown for the preservation of the birds in the New Forest. He lamented that, in spite of the strenuous efforts made, the keepers were only partially successful, although men were specially told off to guard the nesting-place of some rare species. He was pleased to say, however, that on some occasions their efforts had been rewarded with success.

MR. FITZHERBERT-BROCKHOLES exhibited a remarkable nest, jointly constructed and inhabited by a Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) and a Hedge-Accentor (*Accentor modularis*).

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#### XXXIV.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 397.]

##### 69. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. No. 33, January 1900, and No. 34, April 1900.]

MR. W. BERRY opens the year with some remarks on the operation of the Wild Birds' Protection Act of 1894 in Fifeshire, especially in the "Tentsmuir" district. This was formerly stripped of the eggs of Plovers, Curlews, Terns, and Ducks (including the Eider), not only for eating, but largely to supply collectors and dealers, to whom large numbers used to be regularly despatched by rail. Since 1897, however, the law seems to have exercised a perceptible influence, and all these birds have increased in numbers, while the Shoveler Duck has been added to the list of breeders, and the Pintail requires to be included among the species requiring protection in that area. In the April number, rather earlier than usual, Mr. Laidlaw brings out his valuable report for 1899 on the movements and occurrences of birds in Scotland, in which among the rarest visitants may be noticed the Bee-eater in Shetland and the Pratincole near

Montrose, the latter being the second case on record for North Britain. The minor notices are valuable, but chiefly of local interest.

70. *Arrigoni degli Oddi on Veronese Ornithology.*

[Materiali per una Fauna Ornitologica Veronese con note di Vittorio Dal Nero del Prof. E. Arrigoni degli Oddi. Atti R. Ist. Veneto Sci., Lett. ed Arti, lviii. pt. 2, and Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. xxxviii. fasc. 1.

Note Ornitologiche della Provincia di Verona del Socio Prof. E. Arrigoni degli Oddi.]

These memoirs contain the results of the author's continued studies of everything connected with the avifauna of his native province, in compiling which he has received great assistance from Sign. Vittorio Dal Nero, of Verona. In the first of them a description of the physical districts of the Province of Verona is followed by a complete bibliography of the literature on the subject, an account of the special collections of the birds of the district, a description of the various modes of shooting and capturing birds practised, and a complete nominal list of the species, 330 in number. In the second memoir is a long series of field-notes on the 330 species, containing many particulars of interest to the student of Italian birds.

71. '*The Auk.*'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xvii. Nos. 1 and 2, January and April 1900.]

The coloured frontispiece to the January number illustrates a paper by Dr. J. A. Allen on the Little Black Rail (*Porzana jamaicensis*), a bird which was figured first by Edwards in 1760, and later on by Audubon. It has been recorded as breeding in the island to which it owes its name, as well as in several districts east of the Mississippi and South Connecticut; but, owing in some degree to its skulking habits, it has always been considered a numerically scarce species. Some supplementary remarks by Mr. Witmer Stone are to be found in the April number. Mr. A. H. Norton describes the perfectly developed plumage—especially the

inner secondaries—in a mature drake of *Somateria spectabilis*; and Mr. Harry C. Oberholser distinguishes the Wren of the westernmost islands of the Aleutian chain as *Anorthura meligera*, sp. n. Mr. Ridgway's description of five new subspecies of American Jays and three of Fringillidæ may be left to the 'Zoological Record,' as may also those in the April number by Mr. S. N. Bishop of three new subspecies from Alaska, and by Mr. W. E. Nelson of yet another new subspecies of Wild Turkey, followed by proposed changes in nomenclature—an evergreen subject. An important paper by Dr. J. Dwight, Jr., on "The Moults of the North-American *Tetraonidæ* (Quails, Partridges, and Grouse)," extends from p. 34 to p. 51, and in the April number from p. 143 to p. 166, with two uncoloured plates. The Report of the Committee on the Protection of American Birds is, on the whole, encouraging, inasmuch as a general interest has evidently been awakened, and the promoters exhibit knowledge as well as zeal; but the opposition encountered from force and falsehood is shown on p. 94 in sentences which deserve to be widely read and circulated. Among the General Notes, the record of *Somateria stelleri* in the Gulf of St. Lawrence deserves mention, as being the "furthest south" occurrence of this species on the east coast of America.

In the April number Mr. Herrick has an interesting article on the "Care of Nest and Young," with four photographs of parent birds attending to sanitary requirements. Mr. Allan Brooks (son of our much-regretted M.B.O.U.) contributes some notes on the birds of British Columbia, and records the unparalleled occurrence of the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) at the southern extremity of Lake Okanagan, in about 48° N., and far inland. This species is almost unknown on the western side of America, and rare even at Point Barrow, so that it seems probable that the route taken by this individual was by the Mackenzie River or by the Great Slave and the Great Bear Lakes. The name here employed for the Ivory Gull is still *Gavia alba*, the editors having overlooked for the moment that by the 9th Supplement of the

A. O. U. Check-List ('Auk,' 1899, p. 98) the Divers (the Urinatoridæ of 1898) became Gaviidæ; whereas elsewhere throughout these numbers *Gavia* is used for the Loons, which is confusing. Mr. Abbot H. Thayer sets forth his arguments against the "Banner-mark Theory," in reply to a paper by Mr. Ernest Seton Thompson in 'The Auk' for 1897 (*cf.* Ibis, 1898, p. 159), in which it was suggested that the colours of the upper parts were protective, whereas those of the underparts—exhibited by birds in flight or when raising their wings—were directive. Mr. Thayer's reply is more amusing, perhaps, than he intended it to be. Mr. Outram Bangs shows solid work in his review of the Three-toed Woodpeckers of North America; and Mr. C. W. Richmond acknowledges the researches of Mr. Sherborn in some further remarks on the date of Lacépède's 'Tableaux': a subject dear to searchers after priority. We have always maintained that the Herring-Gull of America cannot be separated specifically from the bird of North-western Europe, and it is satisfactory to find *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* dethroned by a good observer (pp. 63 and 169).

72. *Bangs on Birds from the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta.*

[On some new or rare Birds from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Columbia. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xiii. p. 91.]

Mr. Bangs's fourth contribution to this highly interesting avifauna gives us an account of a collection of 1300 specimens recently made by his collector at altitudes of from 3000 to 15,000 feet on the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta. Sixty-eight species are recorded, and the following new species and subspecies are characterized:—

*Pharomachrus festatus*, *Metallura districta*, *Ochthodiæta pernix*, *Haplocercus paulus*, *Myiopatis montensis*, *Pipreola aureipectus decora*, *Sclerurus albigularis propinquus*, *Conopophaga browni*, *Scytalopus latebricola*, *Haplospiza nivaria*, *Cinclus rivularis*, *Troglodytes monticola*, and *Merula albi-ventris fusa*.

73. *Benham on Notornis.*

[Notes on the Fourth Skin of *Notornis*. By W. Blaxland Benham, D.Sc.Lond. Trans. N. Zealand Inst. xxxi. p. 146.

Notes on certain of the Viscera of *Notornis*. *Id. ibid.* p. 151.]

These two papers by Dr. Benham give us particulars of the fourth known specimen of *Notornis mantelli*, which was captured near Invercargill on the 7th of August, 1898. It proved, on examination, to be a young female in a "thoroughly healthy clean condition," so it is quite probable that there may be more of them in the bush of that district. The external characters are fully described in the first paper and the viscera in the second, and the latter are illustrated by two plates.

74. *Bingham on two new Birds from Burmah.*

[On a new Genus and Species of Bulbul and an apparently new Species of *Cyornis*. By Col. C. T. Bingham, F.Z.S. Ann. & Mag. N. II. ser. 7, v. p. 357 (1900).]

Col. Bingham describes a Bulbul, *Cerasophila thompsoni* (sp. et gen. nov.), from Loi-San-Pa (6500 feet), and a Flycatcher, *Cyornis brevirostris*, from Kalaw (4000 feet) in Upper Burmah.

75. *Chapman on two new American Grebes.*

[Description of two new Subspecies of *Colymbus dominicus* Linn. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. N. II. xii. p. 255.]

Mr. Chapman proposes to separate the American Grebes allied to *Podiceps dominicus* into three subspecies, calling the two new forms *Colymbus dominicus brachyrhynchus* (from Brazil) and *C. d. brachypterus* (from Texas).

76. *Cheeseman on the Australian Snipe in New Zealand.*

[Notice of the Occurrence of the Australian Snipe (*Gallinago australis*) in New Zealand. By T. F. Cheeseman, F.L.S. Trans. N. Zealand Inst. xxxi. p. 105.]

The occurrence of the Australian Snipe (*Gallinago australis*) near Auckland is described. This is the first example

recorded in New Zealand. The specimen is in the Auckland Museum.

77. *Forbes on Antarctic Birds in the Derby Museum.*

[Birds in the Derby Museum collected in the Antarctic Regions. Bull. Liverp. Mus. ii. p. 48 (1899).]

This paper gives an account of the specimens of Antarctic birds in the Liverpool Museum derived from the Museum of Lord Derby. They belong to eight species, amongst which no fewer than five are new to the Antarctic list lately compiled by Selater (Ibis, 1894, p. 494), viz. *Nettion flavirostre*, *Ægialitis falklandica*, *Prion banksi*, *Podiceps calipareus*, and *Phalacrocorax atriceps*. All the specimens were obtained during the Antarctic Expedition by Sir J. Hooker and others, and are consequently authentic.

78. *Forbes on a new Aponis.*

[On a new Species of *Aponis*, in the Derby Museum, from Santa Cruz Island, in the Western Pacific. By Henry O. Forbes. Bull. Liverp. Mus. ii. p. 116 (1900).]

The *Aponis* of Santa Cruz Island, hitherto erroneously referred to *A. rufipennis* of Layard, is named *A. maxwelli*.

79. *Forbes and Robinson's Catalogue of Pigeons and Sand-Grouse.*

[Catalogue of the Charadriomorphic Birds (*Charadriiformes*): Auks (*Alcidae*), Gulls (*Lariidae*), and Skuas (*Stercorariidae*)—Lari; Lark-Plovers (*Thinocoridae*), Stone-Curlews (*Edicnemidae*), Jacanas (*Jacaniidae*), Sheathbills (*Chionidae*), Crab-Plovers (*Dromadidae*), Coursers (*Cursoriidae*), Plovers and Snipes (*Charadriidae*)—Limicolæ; Pigeons (*Columbæ*) and Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles*), in the Derby Museum. By Henry O. Forbes and Herbert C. Robinson. Bull. Liverp. Mus. ii. p. 117 (1900).]

This most useful Catalogue is continued on the same lines. The Columbæ are represented in the Derby Museum by 1304 specimens belonging to 342 species; the Pterocletes by 315 specimens belonging to 17 species. Both sexes of *Turturæna iriditorques* are figured, but the localities of the specimens are not stated.

80. *Hartert on the Trochilidæ.*

[Das Tierreich. 9. Lieferung, Aves. Trochilidæ, bearbeitet v. Ernst Hartert. Berlin: R. Friedländer u. Sohn, 1900. 254 pp.]

In this closely but very clearly printed brochure of 254 pages Mr. Hartert has managed to compress a complete synopsis of his favourite group of Humming-birds, on the preparation of which, as all our friends know, he has been long and busily engaged. There can be no doubt about the value and the convenience of this new handbook of a much studied and most attractive group of birds, and we heartily congratulate our fellow-worker in Ornithology at having brought it to so early and so successful a conclusion. The author allows but one family of Humming-birds, which he does not even consider divisible into subfamilies, so great is the general conformity in structure of all the members of this well-defined group. This family, however, he divides into 118 genera and 475 "certain" species (besides 33 "uncertain" species) and 130 subspecies. Salvin, the last monographer, allowed 482 species and no "subspecies." Mr. Hartert, we know, is a severe adherent of "priority" and has a right to his own views, but we cannot think he will be followed in hunting-up again such generic names as "*Colibri*," "*Ocreatus*," "*Popelairia*," and others, which have been rejected for excellent reasons. It would have been better to have adopted Salvin's lead in such vexed questions, which, after all, depend upon individual opinion. On the whole, however, we have here an excellent piece of work, which could have only been carried out by indefatigable exertions aided by an intense love of the subject. We wish it had been written in Latin (or English) instead of German, but that, we suppose, would not have suited the Editor of 'Das Tierreich.'

81. *Hartert on the Birds of Ruk, Carolines.*

[The Birds of Ruk, in the Central Carolines. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. vii. p. 1.]

Hombroun and Jacquinet, during the voyage of the 'Astro-

labe,' and Kubary, whose collections were worked out by Dr. Finsch (P. Z. S. 1880, p. 574), are the only previous authorities on the birds of Ruk. Mr. Hartert now writes on the large collections made there and transmitted to Tring by Mr. Alan Owston, of Yokohama, of which the most important features are the new *Tephras ruki* and a fine series of eggs and nests. Altogether 35 species of birds are now known from this island. Mr. Hartert makes a new subspecies, *Zosterops semperi owstoni*, which represents *Z. semperi* of the Pelews in Ruk, and incidentally describes two new subspecies of Finches as *Erythrura trichroa papuana*, from New Guinea, and *E. trichroa woodfordi*, from the Solomon Islands. Many notes on the eggs and nests are given in this paper.

### 82. Hartert on the Birds of Dammer Island.

[The Birds of Dammer Island, in the Banda Sea. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. vii. p. 12 (1900).]

Dammer is a volcanic islet halfway between Timor and Timorlaut, less than ten miles in length and five in width, and almost entirely covered by dense vegetation. It was visited by the surveying-ship 'Penguin' in 1891, and the ten species of birds of which examples were obtained on that occasion have been enumerated by Dr. R. B. Sharpe (Ann. & Mag. N. H. (6) xiv. p. 56, 1894). Mr. Hartert now treats of the birds collected on Dammer by Mr. H. Kuhn and sent to Tring in 1899, and refers them to 49 species, amongst which *Gerygone kuehni*, *Pachycephala melanura dammeriana*, *Halcyon australasiae dammeriana*, and *Chrysococcyx rufomerus* are now described as new species or subspecies. Mr. Hartert thinks that some of the species hitherto only known from Dammer may likewise be met with on the neighbouring Serwatty group when it has been thoroughly explored.

### 83. Hartert on Dr. Ansorge's African Birds.

[Another small Contribution to African Ornithology. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. vii. p. 25 (1900).]

Dr. Ansorge, author of 'Under the African Sun' (see



Ibis, 1899, p. 457), in his third visit to Africa crossed that continent from east to west, passing through Uganda, Toro, and Fort George on Lake Albert-Edward, and thence through the "Great African Forest" by the Aruwimi and Congo to the west coast.

The collection of birds made during this arduous journey was naturally of a somewhat "fragmentary" character, but contains some interesting specimens. Mr. Hartert refers them to 172 species, upon many of which he gives us copious notes. Dates and localities are well registered. The following novelties are described in the course of the paper:—*Pterocles exustus orientalis* from India, *Pterocles gutturalis saturator* and *Iyngipicus obsoletus ingens* from British East Africa, *Muscicapa toruensis* from Toru, *Mirafra africana transvaalensis* from the Transvaal, *M. a. tropicalis* from tropical East Africa, and *M. a. athi* from the Athi plains, B. E. A.

We much regret to observe that Mr. Hartert is beginning to commence his papers with the lower Orders first. This is a most inconvenient practice, and contrary to universal custom in all other Classes of animals, although, of course, we are too well aware that it is now becoming the fashion in Birds.

#### 84. *Judd on Birds as Weed-destroyers.*

[Birds as Weed-Destroyers. By Silvester D. Judd, Ph.D. Reprinted from Year-book of Department of Agriculture for 1898.]

On behalf of the "Biological Survey" of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Judd shows us that certain birds are useful as destroyers of noxious weeds, upon the seeds of which they mainly subsist. In North America many of the Finches, the Horned Larks, some of the Icteridæ, and the Mourning Dove belong to this category, and do a large amount of good to the agriculturist. No fewer than 50 birds, we are told in the summary, act as weed-destroyers and help to eradicate about 60 species of noxious plants. The whole subject is well treated of in this pamphlet of

twelve pages, accompanied by illustrations of the birds and plants.

85. *Kearton on British Breeding Birds.*

[Our Rarer British Birds, their Nests, Eggs, and Summer Haunts. By Richard Kearton. Illustrated by Photographs by C. Kearton. 8vo. Cassell & Co.]

We can thoroughly recommend this little book (some 160 pages in all) for the beauty of its photogravures and the accuracy of its letterpress. Few naturalists have travelled so widely in the British Islands and taken so much pains to obtain good photographs as these two enterprising brothers. Some species are included which are not, strictly speaking, "rare," but the reason is that good examples of their nests were not available in 1895, when the work on 'British Birds' Nests' was published, to which this is a supplement; no one, however, will deny that epithet to the Kite, Osprey, Marsh-and Montagu's Harriers, Buzzard, and Great Skua, while Fulmars, Fork-tailed Petrels, and Red-necked Phalaropes have not often been photographed "at home." Mr. Kearton's remarks on the protection of our rarer species are eminently characterized by sense, as distinguished from sentiment.

86. *Mercerat on the Stereornithes.*

[Sur les Stereornithes. Par A. Mercerat. Comunicaciones del Mus. Nac. de Buenos Aires, tome i. p. 161 (1899).]

In this notice the author protests against certain opinions which he states have been attributed to him by Dr. Andreae in a review (*Neues Jahrbuch f. Min., Geol. u. Paleont.* 1899, ii. pp. 322-330), and in which several inaccuracies occur. He further remarks that he regards the Stereornithes as a "gens" of the Order Pelargornithes of Fürbringer, and that they are related to the suborder Ciconiiformes as the Gastornithes are related to the Anseriformes: moreover, he expresses himself strongly in favour of the polyphyletic origin of the Ratitæ. In his remarks on a paper by Andrews published in this Journal (*Ibis*, 1896, p. 1), the opinion of that author,

which was in favour of a relationship of *Phororhacos* to the Cariamidæ, is completely misstated.

As to the exact age of the deposits in which the Stereornithes are found, Mercerat states that he considers it to be somewhere between the Upper Eocene and Middle Miocene, a much more reasonable view than is held by some South-American writers.

### 87. *The Norwegian North Polar Expedition.*

[The Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1893-1896.—Pt. IV. An Account of the Birds. By Robert Collett and Fridtjof Nansen. 4to.]

The first section of this small (54 pp.) but important work treats of the journey of the 'Fram' along the coast of Siberia, from July 29th until the closing-in of the ship to the north-west of the New Siberian Islands on September 25th, 1893. The birds observed were then chiefly on their way southward. The second section contains the observations made while the 'Fram' was drifting with the ice towards the north-west during the summer of 1894 and up to the time when Nansen and Johansen started on their daring sledge-journey on March 14th, 1895. It was in August 1894 that specimens of Ross's Wedge-tailed Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) were obtained—birds only just old enough to fly—and the descriptions of flight, habits, and plumage of this interesting species, supplemented by the coloured plate of "the youngest on record," are an attractive feature of the book. The species is, of course, mentioned again in the third section (Nansen and Johansen's sledge-journey) in reference to the obvious proximity of its breeding-place somewhere on the north-east side of Franz Josef Land; but no examples were obtained at that time, for powder and shot were far too valuable for procuring food to be expended on such small objects. The fourth section is devoted to the birds observed during the last two summers (1895-96) that the 'Fram' passed in the ice, when *Fulmarus glacialis* was seen on September 14th in lat. 85° N., "the highest latitude in which birds have ever been known to be observed." This is a most interesting contribution, from beginning to end.

## 88. Oberholser's new Generic Names in Ornithology.

[Some untenable Names in Ornithology. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1899, p. 201.]

Mr. Oberholser's untiring energy has discovered a lot of names generally used for genera in ornithology which have been previously employed in other branches of zoology or are otherwise, in his opinion, inapplicable. We subjoin a list of the changes that he proposes, leaving his reasons to be ascertained by reference to the original paper. It must not be supposed, however, that Mr. Oberholser's proposals will meet with universal acceptance. Some of the rules that he follows, as well as his mode of carrying them out, would meet with decided disapproval from many of us. The claims of grammar and common sense are, in our opinion, far superior to those of "priority."

<i>Name objected to.</i>	<i>Name proposed.</i>	<i>Type.</i>
Micruria, <i>Grant</i> , 1898.	Endomychura, n. n.	<i>E. hypoleuca.</i>
Euhyas, <i>Sharpe</i> , 1898.	Zapterus, n. n.	<i>Z. leucurus.</i>
Defilippia, <i>Salvad.</i> , 1865.	Hemiparra, <i>Salvad.</i>	<i>H. crassirostris.</i>
Phyllopezus, <i>Sharpe</i> , 1896.	Actophilus, n. n.	<i>A. africanus.</i>
Tapinopus, <i>Milne-Edw.</i> , 1892.	Diatropornis, n. n.	<i>D. ellioti.</i>
Orthocnemus, <i>Milne-Edw.</i> , 1892.	Idiornis, n. n.	<i>I. gallicus.</i>
Peristera, <i>Sw.</i> , 1827.	Claravis, n. n.	<i>C. pretiosa.</i>
Harpe, <i>Bp.</i> , 1855.	Nesierax, n. n.	<i>N. novæ-zealandiæ.</i>
Pachynus, 1881.	Graydidascalus, <i>Bp.</i>	<i>G. brachyurus.</i>
Hemilophus, 1837.	Mulleripicus, <i>Bp.</i>	<i>M. pulverulentus.</i>
Dendrobates, <i>Sw.</i> , 1832.	Veniliornis, <i>Bp.</i>	<i>V. sanguineus.</i>
Harpactes, <i>Sw.</i> , 1837.	Pyrotrogon, <i>Bp.</i>	<i>P. ardens.</i>
Amazilia, <i>Reich.</i> , 1849.	Amizilis, <i>Gray.</i>	<i>A. amazili.</i>
Heteropelma, <i>Bp.</i> , 1854.	Scotothorus, n. n.	<i>S. turdinus.</i>
Metopia, <i>Sw.</i> , 1832.	Antilophia, <i>Reich.</i>	<i>A. galeata.</i>
Gymnocephalus, <i>Geoffr.</i> , 1809.	Perissocephalus, n. n.	<i>P. calvus.</i>
Heterocnemis, <i>ScL.</i> , 1855.	Sclateria, n. n.	<i>S. nævia.</i>
Homorus, <i>Reich.</i> , 1853.	Pseudoseisura, <i>Reich.</i>	<i>P. lophotes.</i>
Lymnophyes, <i>ScL.</i> , 1889.	Thryolegus, n. n.	<i>T. curvirostris.</i>
Oxyurus, <i>Sw.</i> , 1827.	Aphrastura, n. n.	<i>A. spinicauda.</i>
Eroessa, <i>Hartl.</i> , 1866.	Neomixis, <i>Sharpe.</i>	<i>N. tenella.</i>
Ellisia, <i>Hartl.</i> , 1860.	Nesillas, n. n.	<i>N. t̄pica.</i>
Phlexis, <i>Hartl.</i> , 1866.	Cryptillas, n. n.	<i>C. victorini.</i>
Amytis, <i>Less.</i> , 1831.	Diaphorillas, n. n.	<i>D. textilis.</i>
Hemixus, <i>Hodgs.</i> , 1825.	Ixos, <i>Temm.</i>	<i>I. virescens.</i>
Cassinia, <i>Hartl.</i> , 1860.	Stizorhina, n. n.	<i>S. frasseri.</i>

<i>Name objected to.</i>	<i>Name proposed.</i>	<i>Type.</i>
Philentoma, <i>Eyton</i> , 1845.	Drymophila, <i>Sw.</i>	<i>D. velata.</i>
Symmorphus, <i>Gould</i> , 1837.	Diaphoropterus, n. n.	<i>D. leucopygus.</i>
Xerophila, <i>Gould</i> , 1840.	Aphelocephala, n. n.	<i>A. leucopsis.</i>
Euthyrhynchus, <i>Schl.</i> , 1873.	Timeliopsis, <i>Salv.</i>	<i>T. griseigula.</i>
Stictoptera, <i>Reich.</i> , 1862.	Stizoptera, n. n.	<i>S. bichenovii.</i>
Chera, <i>Gray</i> , 1849.	Diatropura, n. n.	<i>D. procv.</i>
Eucorystes, <i>Scl.</i> , 1883.	Zarhynchus, n. n.	<i>Z. wagleri.</i>
Calornis, <i>Gray</i> , 1841.	Lamprocorax, <i>Bp.</i>	<i>L. grandis.</i>
Dilophus, <i>Vieill.</i> , 1816.	Perissornis, n. n.	<i>P. carunculatus.</i>
Cuphopterus, <i>Hartl.</i> , 1866.	Horizorhinus, n. n.	<i>H. dohrni.</i>

### 89. Oustalet on Birds from the Eschiras, West Africa.

[Liste des Oiseaux recueillis par le R. P. Buléon dans le pays des Eschiras, en 1896, '97, et '98. Par E. Oustalet. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. Paris, iv. p. 356.]

A list of 19 species, with native names. It includes *Phasidus niger* and *Himantornis hamatopus*—both rarities.

### 90. Oustalet on some Birds from Western China.

[Notice sur quelques Oiseaux de la Chine occidentale. Par E. Oustalet. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. Paris, iii. p. 208 (1897).]

In this paper (which has been unfortunately overlooked) M. Oustalet describes two new birds from Ta-t sien-lou—*Rhabdochlamys dejeani* (gen. et sp. nov. *Timeliadarum*) and *Parus dejeani*, and one from Yun-nan—*Alcippe genestieri*.

### 91. Oustalet on the Birds of Dahomey.

[Catalogue des Oiseaux du Dahomey remis par M. Miegemarque au Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, en 1895. Par E. Oustalet. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. Paris, iv. p. 361.]

The only article yet published on the birds of Dahomey is that of De Souza (Jorn. Sc. Lisboa, xi. p. 217, 1887). M. Oustalet now gives us a list of 28 species represented in a collection lately made by M. Miegemarque in that French colony, and of 5 others of which specimens have been obtained in Dahomey by M. Dybowski. In order to make the list complete, the names of 16 other species previously recorded as

obtained in Dahomey are added, making the whole number yet known 48. This is obviously but a very small part of the Dahomeyan avifauna.

92. *Oustalet on the Birds of Cambogia, Laos, Annam, and Tonquin.*

[Les Oiseaux du Cambodge, du Laos, de l'Annam et du Tonquin. Par M. E. Oustalet. Nouv. Arch. d. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. sér. 4, t. i.]

An account of the birds of the eastern portion of the great Siamese Peninsula, those of the western side being comparatively well known, was much wanted, and it is right that France, to whom the country mainly belongs, should undertake the task. M. Oustalet's memoir, now before us, is based on the rich collection of Indo-Chinese birds furnished to the National Museum of France by MM. Bocourt, Germain, Harmand, and many other contributors, commencing with Diard in 1824. It begins with the Parrots, of which 4 species are known from that country, and then proceeds to the Diurnal and Nocturnal Birds of Prey. The Barbets, Woodpeckers, Cuckoos, Trogons, Hornbills, Kingfishers, Bee-eaters, and Rollers of Indo-China are also discussed in the first part, making altogether 78 species. Coloured plates are added of *Picus (Gecinus) rabieri*, *Carpococcyx renauldi*, *Arboricola henrici*, and *Gemmæus edwardsi*, all remarkable novelties, the last two being given in advance of the succeeding portions of this valuable memoir.

93. *Palmer on the Introduction of Noxious Birds.*

[The Danger of Introducing Noxious Animals and Birds. By T. S. Palmer. Reprinted from Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1898.]

The danger of introducing noxious animals and plants into strange countries is well known, and many examples of this evil practice are familiar to us. It is not the less necessary, however, that the general public, amongst whom are many with a rage for "acclimatization," should be cautioned against it, and we are glad to see that the Agricultural Department of the U.S. has taken up the question.

Every one interested in the subject should study Mr. Palmer's well-written account of the facts bearing on it, and carefully consider the seven conclusions of his summary.

94. *Robinson on Species of Zosterops.*

[Note on Three Rare and not hitherto figured Species of *Zosterops* in the Derby Collection. By H. C. Robinson. Bull. Liverp. Mus. ii. p. 47 (1899).]

Mr. Robinson comments on three little-known species of *Zosterops* represented in the Liverpool Museum (*Z. chlorates*, *Z. aureiventris*, and *Z. griseiventris*), of which figures are given.

95. *Robinson on Birds from North Queensland.*

[Contributions to the Zoology of North Queensland. By H. C. Robinson. Bull. Liverp. Mus. ii. p. 115 (1900).]

Mr. Robinson remarks on three birds from the Cooktown district—*Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ*, *Dacelo gigas*, and *Prionodura newtoniana*. Of the first he makes a new subspecies, *T. n.-h. septentrionalis*. The second he suggests as being doubtfully subspecific under the name *D. g. minor*. Of the third he records the range as extending to Mount Peter Botte, 50 miles south of Cooktown, and one stray specimen as shot near Cooktown.

96. *Salvadori on a new Parrot.*

[Viaggio del Dr. A. Borelli nel Matto Grosso e nel Paraguay. I. T. Salvadori.—Nuova specie del genere *Pyrrhura*, Bp. Boll. Mus. Zool. ed Anat. R. Univers. Torino, xiv. no. 363.]

Count Salvadori describes as new *Pyrrhura hypoxantha*, from Matto-Grosso (*Borelli*), remarkable for its yellow under surface.

97. *Salvadori on Birds from the Cape Verde Islands.*

[Collezioni Ornitologiche fatte nelle Isole del Capo Verde da Leonardo Fea studiate da Tommaso Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova, ser. 2, xx. p. 283.]

The birds collected by Sign. Leonardo Fea in 1897 on the islands of the Cape Verde group, 308 in number, are referred

to 47 species, of which 11 are new to this avifauna. A useful bibliography of previous authorities on the birds of these islands is given. It appears that Capt. Boyd Alexander, who has recently written two articles on the subject (see *Ibis*, 1898, p. 14 and p. 277), has overlooked M. Oustalet's "Description d'espèces nouvelles d'Oiseaux provenant des îles du Cap Vert" (*Ann. Se. Nat., Zool. sér. 6, xvi. art. v.*), in which *Puffinus edwardsi* and *Passer brancoensis* were described as new. Count Salvadori considers the former to be the same as *Puffinus mariaë* of Alexander, and the latter not different from *Passer jaguensis*.

98. *Salvadori and Festa on the Birds of Ecuador* (part 3).

[Viaggio del Dr. Enrico Festa nell' Ecuador. Uccelli. Parte 3. Trochili, Tinami. Del T. Salvadori ed E. Festa. *Boll. Mus. Zool. Università di Torino*, xv. No. 368.]

This third part brings to a conclusion Count Salvadori's valuable memoir on Dr. E. Festa's splendid collection of the birds of Ecuador. We have already (*Ibis*, 1900, p. 393) noticed the first and second parts, which were devoted to the Oscines and Clamatores, and enumerated the 345 species of Passeres represented in Dr. Festa's series. In the third part the remaining Orders are treated of. They contain examples of 268 species, 34 of which are new to the avifauna of Ecuador. Four species are described as new to science—*Chloronerpes rubripileus*, *Capito æquatorialis*, *Pulsatrix fasciiventris*, and *Penelope æquatorialis*.

In his concluding remarks the author states his views as to the physical divisions of Ecuador, which he recognizes as four in number—the Occidental, the Inter-Andean, the Andean, and the Oriental, and states the principal forms of bird-life typical of each of these divisions.

99. *Seeböhm's 'Monograph of the Thrushes.'*

[A Monograph of the Turdidæ, or Family of Thrushes. By the late Henry Seeböhm. Edited and completed (after the Author's death) by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part VIII. Imperial 4to. London: Henry Sotheran & Co., 1900.]

The following species are beautifully figured in the eighth



part of Seebohm's posthumous work on the Thrushes, now being issued and completed under the editorship of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe:—*Merula rufitorques*, *M. serrana*, *M. leucops*, *M. infuscata*, *M. samoensis*, *M. marcensis*, *M. gigas*, *M. gigantoides*, *M. cacozela*, *M. nigrescens*, *M. nigrorum*, and *M. nigropileus*. Other unfigured species are introduced into the letterpress. We venture to think that the number of Neotropical Blackbirds has become somewhat unduly augmented of late years. It is allowed that in some cases the males are nearly or quite indistinguishable, and that specific characters can be detected only in the females. But are the females of the same locality always exactly similar?

100. *Shelley's 'Birds of Africa,'* vol. ii. pt. 1.

[The Birds of Africa. By G. E. Shelley, F.Z.S., F.R.G.S. Vol. II. Pt. 1. London: Porter, 1900. Svo. Pp. 160. 6 coloured plates. Price 21s. net.]

Our valued friend and fellow-worker has commenced his laborious task of describing the 2534 birds of the Ethiopian Region, of which he catalogued the names in the first volume of this work (see *Ibis*, 1896, p. 419). The present portion of vol. ii. contains the Pittidæ and Philepittidæ, and the whole of the Nectariniidæ—the last a very numerous group in Africa, comprising upwards of 80 species. These are all diagnosed and described, and every necessary particular is given concerning their distribution, nesting-habits, and other known peculiarities.

The 'Birds of Africa,' when complete, promises to be of first-rate importance to ornithological science.

101. *Suschkin on the Skull of Tinnunculus.*

[Zur Morphologie des Vogelskelets. I. Schädel von *Tinnunculus*. Von P. P. Suschkin. Nouv. Mém. Soc. Imp. d. Nat. Moscou, xvi. livr. 2 (1899).]

Dr. Suschkin requires 150 pages of quarto—distinctly verging upon folio—to state what he has to say about the development of the skull in *Tinnunculus alaudarius*. For those who are unable to read this extended memoir the

author has provided a preliminary account in the 'Anatomischer Anzeiger' for 1896. The results of this inquiry are of some interest to taxonomists. The author finds that in the developing skull there is a temporary phase of schizognathism; and, more than this, that the vomer is for a time forked in front; the skull therefore at a certain period is distinctly suggestive of that of a Limicoline bird. Such facts, thinks the author (and there are corroborations), do not decidedly negative the view of Forbes and some other writers that the Accipitrines should be relegated to the neighbourhood of the Storks. But on the whole these facts do not necessitate such a placing. Dr. Suschkin does not suggest an alternative. It may, perhaps, be pointed out that in the features mentioned, as well as in the temporary existence of occipital fontanelles, there is an equal likeness to the Crane tribe. It has already been urged by the late Prof. Parker and by others that *Cariama*, a Crane in the wider acceptance of the term, is by no means unlike an Accipitrine. That the group of Cranes may form a basal group connected with the Accipitres, as well as perhaps with other forms, is a view urged by Mr. Beddard in his 'Structure and Classification of Birds.' This is far from being contradicted by Dr. Suschkin's important discoveries in the skull of the Accipitrine chick.

#### 102. *Wyatt's Second Volume of 'British Birds.'*

[British Birds: with some Notes in reference to their Plumage. Coloured Illustrations. Vol. II. By Claude W. Wyatt, M.B.O.U. Folio. London, 1899.]

The second volume of Mr. Wyatt's 'British Birds' contains illustrations of all the Passerine birds which are migrants to the British Islands, the occasional visitors being left out. To these follow figures of the resident and migrant *Picariæ*, *Striges*, *Accipitres*, and *Columbæ*, according to the arrangement and nomenclature of the B.O.U. List of British Birds. As in the Passeres, the occasional visitors are omitted. The number of species treated of in this volume is 53. We can hardly speak too highly of Mr. Wyatt's figures, which

are the work of his own industrious pencil. The backgrounds also show great artistic talent, and the colouring, executed by the Misses Sharpe, is much to be praised.

We can scarcely doubt that this series of volumes, which, when complete, will contain figures of all the British Birds ordinarily met with, will attain great popularity.

XXXV.—*Obituary.*

Dr. E. D. DICKSON, C.M.Z.S., Dr. ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S., and Prof. ALPHONSE MILNE-EDWARDS, F.M.Z.S.

IN 'The Times' of March 28th last we find recorded the death on the previous day, at Constantinople, of EDWARD DALZEL DICKSON, one of the oldest Corresponding Members of the Zoological Society of London, having been elected to that honour in 1840. In the first series of the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings' will be found several communications from this formerly active correspondent, who, in 1839, in conjunction with Mr. H. J. Ross, transmitted to that Society numerous specimens of birds obtained in the neighbourhood of Erzerum, where he was then resident (see P. Z. S. 1839, pp. 119, 130). These were determined by Louis Fraser, at that time Curator of the Society's Museum, and their names were recorded in the 'Proceedings,' accompanied by the collectors' notes. So far as we know, they are still almost the only authority on the birds of this high district of Asia Minor. Dr. Dickson was for many years Physician to the British Embassy at Constantinople, and there made a considerable collection of the fishes of the Bosphorus, which was presented in 1839 to the British Museum (see P. Z. S. 1839, p. 135). After retiring from his official post, he settled again at Constantinople, and died there on the 27th of March last at an "advanced age."

Dr. ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S., Vice-President of the Zoological Society and a Member of the B.O.U. since 1892, whose form and voice were familiar to all attendants at